

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#15

In re the application of:

Wadood HAMAD et al

Serial No: 09/522,359

Filed : March 9, 2000

Examiner: L. Ferguson

Group Art Unit: 1774

For : ENGINEERED CRACK RESISTANT
PAPER AND BOARD

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the Office Action dated May 7, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3 and 4 as being obvious over Terasawa et al (5,470,434). Claims 2, 6 and 8 were rejected as obvious over Terasawa et al in view of Warszawski (4,596,635). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The only independent claim in the application, claim 1, specifies a discontinuous polymer material impregnated into a web of a cellular fiber network in geometric formations. The polymeric geometric formations act as stress arresters [to prevent propagation of cracks to improve the energy absorbing capability.]

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner stated that Terasawa et al discloses a paper impregnated with an anti decaying agent consisting of polymeric fibers having discontinuous circular geometric formations displayed in Figures 1 and 4. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Terasawa et al discloses a paper treated with an N-substituted derivative of urea over the entire surface. The paper is then subjected to heating causing the reaction of the anti decay treatment in some portions where no such reaction occurs at different portions. The paper is placed on a drum having apertures 4, as seen in Figure 1. Areas of the paper 5

- process
irrelevant

brought into contact with openings 4 of the jacket exhibit decay in the shape of the openings and no decay is observed in other portions. The result is a sheet of paper having areas 5 exhibiting decay with other areas having no decay due to an anti decaying agent, such as an aqueous solution containing DNDHEU.

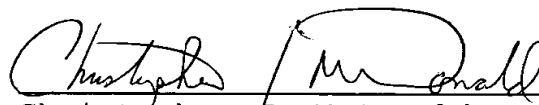
The discontinuous areas mentioned by the Examiner in Figures 1 and 4 are the openings 4 in the jacket and the areas of decay 5 formed after paper sheet treated with an anti decaying agent are heated. There is [no disclosure of a discontinuous polymer material formed in geometric formation.]

The Examiner is [incorrect in stating that the anti decaying agent consists of polymeric fiber.] The polymeric fiber of Terasawa et al is part of the treated paper. The anti decaying agent is the N-substituted derivative of urea and a catalyst such as magnesium chloride.

The claims are allowable over the prior art and favorable action is eagerly and earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, and the Examiner believes a telephone conversation would resolve such issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

No fee is due or owing, but the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 08-2455 for any fees.

Respectfully submitted,


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July 28, 2003

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